

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Components of a server 100 are illustrated in Figure 2 according to one embodiment of the invention. The server includes a software development space 210 that provides a software developer with necessary tools for developing software code, for example, editors, compilers, etc. The server also includes compatibility check tools to ensure that new changes introduced by developers to software objects are compatible with other software objects. The server includes a changes monitor 215 that monitors software code development performed by the developer within the software development space. Frozen objects table 230 is another component of the server, which includes identifications of software objects that are declared frozen, e.g., objects that if modified may introduce incompatible changes. In one embodiment frozen objects include software objects and their environments that are used by a software product subsystem located at the client 110. The server also includes a compatible changes database 235, which includes changes that are predefined as compatible changes. The server also includes an error notification module 220, an exception interface 225 and an exception database 240, the functions of which are described below.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] Upon receiving notification that a change is not allowed, the developer may contact an individual who is an expert in compatibility between subsystems of the software product according to one embodiment of the invention. The expert reviews the change that the developer is proposing to make and analyzes whether the change will introduce incompatibility problems into the software product. If the expert determines that the change will not introduce incompatibility problems, the expert enters an exception into an exception database 240 via the exception interface 225. The exception will be identified by the changes monitor ~~210~~ 215 if the developer again tries to introduce the change to the frozen object.